

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Insert the following new paragraph on page 1 after the title of the invention:

“CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

The present application is related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/801,857 filed by Heinz Meurs, et al. on 16 March 2004, which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.”

Please insert the following subtitle before paragraph 0001:

- -TECHNICAL FIELD OF INVENTION- -

Please replace paragraph 0002 with the following revised version:

BACKGROUND OF RELATED ART

Such a device is known, for example from EP 1 229 137, which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety. It serves for the transport of metallic work pieces between individual heat treatment chambers that are approached in a predetermined sequence within the framework of the heat treatment process and which can be loaded and unloaded via the transport device.

Please replace paragraph 0008 with the following revised version:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

~~For the solution of the problem with the invention,~~The invention provides a device is ~~suggested~~ for the transport of metallic work pieces, in particular during a heat treatment process, comprising a heat-insulated and vacuum-tight transport chamber for heated transport, a transport device for cold transport, and a common drive for the transport chamber and the transport device.

Please insert the following subtitle before paragraph 0020:

- -BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING- -

Please insert the following subtitle before paragraph 0021:

- -DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION- -

Please replace paragraph 0024 with the following revised version:

With respect to the precise construction and functionality of the transport chamber 2 and that of the carriage 5 that bears the transport chamber 2, please refer to the contents of the European patent application EP 1 229 137 A1 which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Please delete page 8 in its entirety.